

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner accept the drawings submitted on September 4, 2003. Applicant submits that these drawings are formal.

Disposition of Claims

Independent claims 14 and 17 are pending in the present application. By way of this reply, claims 14 and 17 have been amended.

Claim Amendments

Claims 14 and 17 have been amended to include all the limitations of claim 1 of the parent application, now U.S. Patent No. 6,696,903. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to because of informalities. The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,691,674 (“Yorita”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,965,537 (“Kommrusch”). Claims 14 and 17 have been amended by way of this reply. To the extent that the rejection may still apply to amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a filter used in an antenna duplexer or communication equipment. Amended independent claims 14 and 17 include all the limitations of the allowed claim 1 in the parent application, now U.S. Patent No. 6,696,903. Amended claims 14 and 17 require, in part, a bypass circuit functioning as a capacitive coupling parallel to a magnetic-field bypass coupling between non-adjacent resonators.

Yorita, which is directed to a dielectric resonator apparatus, fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended claims 14 and 17. More specifically, the purported bypass circuit of Yorita merely has *unintentional, fixed* internal coupling capacitance (*see, e.g.*, Yorita, Figs. 2 and 4; col. 7, lines 26—31), and Yorita is completely silent at least with respect to a magnetic-field bypass coupling between non-adjacent resonators and its relationship with the bypass circuit. The inventive features of the filter of the present invention are at least advantageous in that the attenuation poles are controllable by adjusting the capacitances (*see, e.g.*, Publication of the present application, paragraphs [0008], [0012], [0016], [0020], and [0055]).

Like Yorita, Kommrusch, which is directed to a ceramic filter, fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 14 and 17 or supply that which Yorita lacks. Kommrusch is completely silent at least with regard to a magnetic-field bypass coupling between non-adjacent resonators and its relationship with the bypass circuit. This is also evidenced by the fact in the instant Office Action, Kommrusch is merely used by the Examiner to show that Kommrusch provides the *general* teaching of using filters in a duplexer of a communication device.

In view of the above, Yorita and Kommrusch, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent

claims 14 and 17. Thus, amended independent claims 14 and 17 are patentable over Yorita and Kommrusch. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

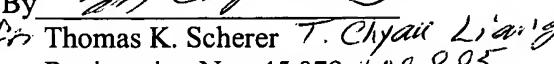
Claims 14 and 17 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,696,903. Applicant respectfully submits an attached terminal disclaimer under 37 CFR 1.321. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04558.046002).

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments